

## Summary/Final Minutes – Work Session – May 2, 2013

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### **Savannah City Government SUMMARY/FINAL MINUTES MAYOR AND ALDERMEN WORK SESSION May 2, 2013 – 10:00 am**

PRESENT: Mayor Edna B. Jackson, Presiding  
Alderman Van R. Johnson, II Mayor Pro-tem  
Alderman Tony Thomas, Chairman of Council  
Alderman Mary Osborne, Vice-Chairman of Council  
Aldermen John Hall, Carol Bell, Mary Ellen Sprague,  
Tom Bordeaux and Estella Shabazz

City Manager Stephanie S. Cutter  
Asst. City Attorney William W. Shearouse

ABSENT: City Attorney W. Brooks Stillwell (out of town)

Alderman Tony Thomas, Chairman of Council called the meeting to order.

#### Reserve Police Officer Program

Chief Willie Lovett, Officer Gary Taylor and business owner Mark Dana provided an overview of the Reserve Police Officer (RPO) Program. The RPO program is a cost-effective way to supplement the full-time police force and provide additional services such as extra manpower for emergencies and special events without major increases in the budget. The program also allows the department to retain years of experience, knowledge and training, provides more resources to residents, and enhances the relationship between the community and law enforcement. Mayor Jackson asked Chief Lovett if he could incorporate “community relations” into the wording and he responded yes. Alderman Osborne asked how many officers would be brought on board and how will they be assigned? He stated they will initially start with 50 to 60 officers and future RPO staffing will be based on demand.

Police reserve applicants are required to be certified law enforcement officers through the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council (POST). The program is directed by the Chief of Police and is managed by a program liaison. Alderman Sprague asked if there was an age limit or physical requirement and how were these determined? Officer Taylor stated the selection criteria for RPO’s is identical to that of full-time police officers, they must comply with the same standards as full-time sworn police officers, and are required to volunteer a minimum of thirty (30) hours quarterly to maintain their status. Additionally, these volunteer RPO’s are not paid for their time while working or during training and the only benefit they are entitled to is Worker’s Compensation.

The RPO program has three levels of classification which helps to maintain a structured and progressive development of both training and on the job experience. It offers a distinctive collaborative approach that engages the business community with the function and success of

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public safety. In addition to firefighters, the prospective police reserves can consist of teachers, physicians, attorneys, real estate brokers and members of our military and presents the opportunity to work with children who are the City's most prized population.

### Proposed Amendments to the City's Announcement Sign Standards

Amanda Bunce, Development Services Planner for the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) gave a presentation on the proposed amendments to the City's Announcement Sign Standards that included the purpose of the new amendments allowing electronically-controlled and manual changeable copy announcement signs. Ms. Bunce also provided a table with sign standards for existing and proposed districts, examples of different announcement signs, and a new street classification map for these signs. She noted that as the cost drops for electronically-controlled signs, the request for them increases. Schools, places of worship and businesses in specific zoning districts have expressed an interest in these new amendments to the ordinance. Alderman Osborne asked for clarification on foot candles and Alderman Sprague asked how they will be enforced. Ms. Bunce stated that one foot candle is equal to the amount of light from a candle, one foot away from the source, and this is administered and handled by Zoning Enforcement.

The standards that are not proposed to change include announcement signs that are located on a street classified as a collector or arterial road, electronically-controlled signs will still be prohibited in any National Registered Historic District, and the maximum level of lighting for electronically-controlled signs will still be regulated. Staff is also proposing a new method of controlling the level of light to maintain capability with the existing lighting conditions.

### Executive Session

Upon a motion by Alderman Osborne, seconded by Alderman Shabazz and unanimously carried, approval was given to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel and litigation.

Upon a motion by Alderman Osborne seconded by Alderman Shabazz and unanimously carried, approval was given to come out of Executive Session where no votes were taken.

### Council broke for lunch

City Manager Stephanie Cutter presented the City Manager's Briefing of the agenda items for the Council Meeting of May 2, 2013. The agenda is attached and made a part of the permanent record.

Mayor Jackson adjourned this meeting.



Dyanne C. Reese, MMC, Clerk of Council